

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

How to Grow Beautiful.

Persons may outgrow disease, and become healthy, by proper attention to the laws of their physical constitution. By moderate and daily exercise, men may become active and strong in limb and muscle. But to grow beautiful, how? Age dims the lustre of the eyes, and pales the roses on beauty's cheeks, while crowns feet, and furrows, and wrinkles, and lost teeth, and grey hair, and bald heads, and tottering limbs, and limping, most sadly mar the human form divine. But, dim as the eye is, pallid and sunken as may be the face of beauty, and frail and feeble that once strong, erect and manly body, the immortal soul, just fledgling its wings for its home in Heaven, may look out through those faded shadows as beautiful as the dew-drop of a summer's morning, as melting as the tears that glisten in affection's eye—by growing kindly, by cultivating sympathy with all human kind, by cherishing forbearance towards the follies and foibles of our race, and finding, day by day, on that love to God and man which lifts us from the brute, and makes us akin to angels.

Influence of Children's Prayers.

In one of the darkest periods of the Reformation, when Luther, Melanchthon, and others were assembled to consult upon what should be done, Melanchthon retired from the council under great dejection of spirit. After a short time he returned, his countenance beaming with confidence and joy; and when all were surprised at the change, he told them that he had just seen a sight which assured him of success. He had seen some little children engaged in prayer for the Reformation. Their mothers, who were assembled for the same purpose, had brought them together; and he was assured such prayers would be heard of God.

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The Christian Advocate of New York says that the statistics of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the past year show an increase of Sunday Schools of 1296; of officers and teachers, 12,764; of scholars, 101,269.

SUMMARY OF RELIGIOUS NEWS.

PRESBYTERIAN.—The Synod of Kentucky, at its late meeting, adopted the following minute concerning the part of the Presbyterian Church in that State known as the Declaration and Testimony party, to wit:

"The Synod deplores the schism that has occurred within our bounds, and earnestly desires that we speedily heal it, looking for the grace and brightness of union and concord which prevailed in former years, and is so far ready to extend the hand of fraternal kindness and welcome to their brethren who have erred, to the utmost limit, consistent with the maintenance of the dignity and just authority of the Church. It will endeavor to cherish over the Church and conciliate every spirit that animated the Assemblies of 1867 and 1868, and hereby declares its willingness to act at all times, in the treatment of their relations to these brethren formerly joined in church fellowship with them, in the view of the principles and policy set forth in the action of the Synod."

—A few days ago, a number of ministers and churchmen connected with the Reformed Presbyterians of the United States has held a meeting, to sit in judgment upon that Synod that condemns George H. Stuart for singing hymns. Whereupon the Observer New York inquires: "Is there not something in the verdict of God's people in America, in Britain, in India, that should cause the Synod to pause and solemnly review its decision?" And adds: "It is not our duty to dictate or counsel, but may we not, with deference, suggest to the Synod that the honor of Christ's cause in the whole earth demands that they should be reconciled to it?"

—The Synod of Ohio met a few days ago in Columbus. The report of benevolent contributions showed a very flattering array of figures. There are in the Synod 64 parishes and 4500 members. Foreign missions received an average of \$64 cents from each member; home missions \$61 cents; ministerial education 24 cents; church erection a cent; and a quarter; and the publication cause considerably less.

—A missionary enterprise of the Old Pine Street Church, located in the southeastern part of this city, last December ripened into the organization of the Greenwich Street Church. It is made up largely of young families, has a large Sabbath School, and in all respects lays itself out for work. The Rev. William Hutton, who has from the first supplied its pulpit, was recently installed by the Fourth Presbytery of this city.

—The Synod of Iowa have taken measures towards the establishment of a theological seminary, with a preparatory department, for the special benefit of those whose course of study must be pararial. They will, both in curriculum and system of training, seek "to avoid the errors of the present system of theological education, supply its defects, and adapt it in all respects to the demands of the age in which we live."

—Some time ago the First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, adopted the plan of making all the pews of the church free to the voluntary gifts of the people for the support of the minister. The Fifth Presbyterian Church of the same city has adopted the same plan, and inaugurated it with good promise of success, and of the enlargement of the congregation.

Unity Church, in Eastern Alabama, has been visited with a remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit. During the services they were aided by the Rev. J. L. Reed. The number of members of the church previously was twenty-one. Twenty-eight were added on this occasion, making the whole number now forty-nine.

—There are over a hundred young men in attendance at Davidson College, North Carolina, representing all the western State. Not less than thirty of the students are candidates for the ministry, and several of them expect to labor in heathen lands.

—The First Church of St. Louis, Missouri, rendered vacant by the removal of the Rev. Dr. Nelson to Lane Seminary, has given a call to the Rev. William Hogbin, D.D., of Detroit, Michigan, to become its pastor.

—The people of Dr. Duryea's church in Brooklyn, New York, have established two mission Sabbath schools within a few weeks, one in Atlantic avenue, the other in Fulton avenue, and both not very far from Flatbush Avenue.

—The Sixth United Presbyterian Church, Allegany City, was dedicated lately. It is a large, new building, the exterior of stone and brick, and cost about \$23,000.

—The Rev. Alexander A. McConnell has been received by the Presbytery of New York, from the Second United Presbyterian Presbytery of New York.

—The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Neshannock, Pa., has joined the United Presbyterian Pre-bis-tery of Mercer.

—Judge John A. Ingraham, of South Carolina, has been elected President of Oglethorpe University, Georgia.

METHODIST.—A letter addressed to Dr. Newman by the Rev. Thomas W. Mossman, West Pittston, Vicksburg, Wright, Yorkshire, England, deserves notice. It is dated October 1, 1868, and is in the month of October, and is reprinted in the pages of the *Catholico Opus*. Dr. Newman had addressed a letter to Father Coleridge on "Anglican orders," which of course he totally ignores. The Rev. Mr. Mossman, shocked at this condemnation of his ecclesiastical status, wrote to Dr. Newman, declaring that "the whole question involved is one of life and death to us poor Anglicans," and ending with the following passage:

"I feel sure you will not misundesrstand my motive in thus writing to you. I think I know something of the trouble of those who are educated in the Church, and it is because I feel so strongly that those terrible distinctions are to be healed, not by Anglican priests coming to a belief that they are only laymen—even if it be emphasized laymen—but by their believing in their priesthood, and acting upon it. And then, when they do this, I feel sure that, in God's own good time, it will come to pass that Anglicans will also see that it is God's will that they should submit to the Holy Apostolic See, and that it is their duty as well as their privilege to be in communion with it. All that is necessary to do is to make it in the name of the owner, unless taken by special contract." EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, General Superintendent Atlanta, Ga.

—The Northern Methodist Church is charged by a colored correspondent of the *Missionary Record* of Charleston, S. C., with fostering vicious caste distinctions in Georgia. He says, speaking of a conference held at Atlanta, Ga.: "The majority of the ministers were white, and a sharp line was drawn between them and the 'colored brethren.' They have in Atlanta a

white church and a colored church. Do they make converts? In Griffin they have a white church and a colored church. Does the colored dominate? But the business of the conference was conducted by white men entirely. Is it a church acknowledging universal brotherhood? The colored members were not permitted to go into the white church to hear Bishop Clark's sermon, because they were plainly told their room was of more worth than their company, they desiring that the white people of Atlanta might hear the Bishop."

—The receipts of the Methodist Missionary Society for the year commencing November 1, 1867, and ending October 31, 1868, are \$614,137.16, which sum will not vary materially from the receipts from January 1, 1868, to December 31, 1868. The above figures include the sums received from the colored and other miscellaneous sources, but not the grants received from the American Biblio-Society.

The Rev. J. D. Blain, of the California Conference, for the last year pastor of the Washington Heights Methodist Episcopal Church, in New York city, has accepted the appointment of Traveling Secretary of the National Temperance Society, and will immediately enter upon the duties of the office.

—The Garrett Biblical Institute at Chicago (Methodist) has just graduated seven young theologians. The assets of this institute are reported at \$359,683, of which, besides the secretary's salary, \$279,000 is represented by real estate in that city, let by Mrs. Garrett for this purpose.

—A correspondent of the *Nashville Christian Advocate* says there is an increasing desire in the Southern branch of the Methodist Church to do away with the office of presiding elder, and have a bishop for every Conference.

Bishop Clark having completed his episcopal tour in 1868, reports growing strength and consolidation in the Southern work of the Northern Methodist Church. Eight conferences return a membership of 102,393, a gain of 31,013 over 1867.

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BAPTIST.

—The Philadelphia Baptist Association held its annual meeting recently, at the Calvary Church, in South Fifth street. The Committee appointed to make a Digest of the Letters from the Churches presented the following, which comprises a summary of the results for the past year:

Your Committee have examined with care all the Letters from the Churches, and find the results to be truly glorious. Many of the pastors and brethren carried home from the last meeting of this body an influence that followed them the year round. Several of the churches have enjoyed special revivals, and nearly all report a quiet, progressive, and healthy growth. The following is a summing up of the results:

1. The amount of money raised in 1868, letters, \$1,600; offering, \$55; expense, 200; explosion, 240; death, 187. The total number of baptisms is 1,474.

All of the churches have Sunday Schools, many of them have two or three. The whole number of schools is 99; officers, 373; teachers, 1,489; scholars, 14,851; scholars and teachers, 1,426; classes, 8, S. Libraries, 29,254.

2. *Church Edifices and Parsonages.*—The Memorial Church is vigorously prosecuting the erection of a chapel, and expect to enter it by the first of next year. The Mount Zion Church is nearly finished in Hinsdale, Ill.; and one of its first acts was to appoint Dr. Bomberger, the learned leader of the evangelical party, and lately editor of the English translation of Hergott's *Encyclopaedia*, for the crime of slandering the Synod in his *Church Monthly*. He had charged the leaders of the synod with refusing at their last meeting to allow anyone to be nominated to the vacant theological professorship except adherents of Dr. Nevin. This charge was substantially true; but the comments he had made upon it were very offensive to the high church wing. Accordingly a resolution was introduced and passed that, unless Dr. Bomberger should be in a "public, full, and unequivocal retraction" within 10 days on the next day, the vacant theological professorship except adherents of Dr. Nevin. 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